CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1.   A measurement/control system, comprising:
        configuration data source that provides a set of
configuration data that specifies a
measurement/control function;
        a set of distributed devices each having means
10 for obtaining the configuration data from the
configuration data source and means for diffusing the
configuration data among the distributed devices.

    2.   The measurement/control system of claim 1,
15 wherein the configuration data source includes a
source kiosk that obtains the configuration data from
an application server.

    3.   The measurement/control system of claim 1,
20 wherein the configuration data source is co-located
with a service provider accessible by one or more of
the distributed devices.

    4.   The measurement/control system of claim 1,
25 wherein the means for diffusing includes means for
forming a communication channel with a kiosk.

    5.   The measurement/control system of claim 4,
wherein the means for forming a communication channel
30 includes means for forming a communication channel in
response to a physical proximity to the kiosk.

    6.   The measurement/control system of claim 1,

wherein the means for diffusing includes means for forming a communication channel with another of the distributed devices.

5   7.   The measurement/control system of claim 6, wherein the means for forming a communication channel includes means for forming a communication channel in response to a physical proximity.

10   8.   The measurement/control system of claim 1, wherein the means for diffusing includes means for determining a relative staleness of a set of configuration data stored in a kiosk and a set of configuration data stored in the distributed devices.

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9.   The measurement/control system of claim 1, wherein the means for diffusing includes means for determining a relative staleness of a set of configuration data stored in the distributed devices.

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10.   A method for configuring a set of distributed devices, comprising the steps of:
    providing to one or more of the distributed devices a set of configuration data that specifies a
25   measurement/control function;
    diffusing the configuration data among the distributed devices.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the step of
30   providing includes the step of obtaining the configuration data from an application server.

12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the step of

Attorney Docket No.: 10040199-1

providing includes the step of co-locating the configuration data with a service provider accessible by one or more of the distributed devices.

5   13.   The method of claim 10, wherein the step of diffusing includes the step of forming a communication channel between a pair of the distributed devices.

10   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a communication channel includes the step of forming a communication channel in response to a physical proximity of the pair.

15   15.   The method of claim 10, wherein the step of diffusing includes the step of forming a communication channel with a kiosk.

16.   The method of claim 15, wherein the step of
20   forming a communication channel includes the step of forming a communication channel with the kiosk in response to a physical proximity of the kiosk.

17.   The method of claim 10, wherein the step of
25   diffusing includes the step of determining a relative staleness of different sets of configuration data.

18.   A distributed device, comprising:
        means for obtaining a set of configuration data
30   that specifies a measurement/control function from a configuration data source;
        means for diffusing the configuration data to a set of other distributed devices.

Attorney Docket No.: 10040199-1

19. The distributed device of claim 18, wherein the means for diffusing includes means for forming a communication channel to the other distributed

5 devices.

20. The distributed device of claim 19, wherein the means for forming a communication channel includes means for forming a communication channel in response

10 to a physical proximity.

21. The distributed device of claim 18, wherein the means for diffusing includes means for forming a communication channel to a kiosk.

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22. The distributed device of claim 21, wherein the means for forming a communication channel includes means for forming a communication channel in response to a physical proximity of the kiosk.

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23. The distributed device of claim 18, wherein the means for diffusing includes means for means for determining a staleness of the configuration data.